



Tibet Information Network

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## TIN BACKGROUND BRIEFING PAPER

### B14

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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Suggestions for Detailed Parliamentary Questions to Foreign Offices.

Legal

What legal rights do prisoners receive in Tibet? How many defence lawyers are there in Tibet, how many are Tibetan, how many speak Tibetan, and how many are Government officials or dependent on funds or patronage from the Government or the Chinese Communist Party?

How many trials of Tibetans arrested in connection with political incidents have been tried and how many of those trials were open to the public? How many of these were attended by foreign observers, how many by representatives of the US Embassy, and how many by independent human rights observers or journalists? How many trial transcripts have been made available to the US Government?

Travel/Education

Are Tibetans free to travel without hindrance or restriction within Tibet, within the current boundaries of the People's Republic, and to other countries?

Are Tibetans resident within the current borders of the PRC who wish to travel abroad under the same restrictions as Chinese citizens wishing to travel abroad? How many Tibetans travelled abroad from the PRC in 1987, 1988, and 1989, and how many Chinese travelled abroad from the PRC in 1987, 1988, and 1989? How many applications were refused by the PRC Government in each of those years from Chinese citizens and from Tibetan citizens respectively?

How many Chinese citizens were admitted to the USA in each of those years, and how many Tibetans resident within the current borders of the PRC were admitted? In each of these categories, how many of those admitted to the USA were paid for by the Government of the PRC to study in the USA?

What proportion of students at Tibet University are Tibetan, which course require knowledge of English, and which courses require knowledge of Chinese? How many Tibetan students have been allowed to study abroad?

Are students in primary, secondary and tertiary levels free to study in their own language, or do they have to study in another language? Are all Tibetan and Chinese students allowed to learn English? Are Tibetans allowed to study in their home towns or do they have to go elsewhere? Is the same true of Chinese students? What happens if they refuse to study elsewhere or decide to return from studying elsewhere before the allotted time of the course is completed?

#### Employment

Are there any jobs in Tibet apart from interpreting which require formally or in practice fluency of Chinese?

Do new capital investment/construction projects include a fixed quota of Tibetan employees or do they bring in Chinese employees, and are these employees at management level, skilled labour, or unskilled labour?

What practical restrictions if any are placed on Chinese people entering Tibet, as tourists, technicians, or looking for work respectively?

#### Communications

Is the post censored in Tibet? Are Tibetans allowed use of phones and faxes without restriction? How many facsimile machines are there in Tibet which are in private hands or accessible without monitoring to private individuals?

Are there restrictions on communications between Tibetans and foreigners?

#### Religion

How many religious ceremonies involving more than twenty monks took place at Drepung, Sera and Ganden monasteries and at the Jokhang Temple in 1987, 1988, 1989 and in the first 6 months of 1990 respectively? Which, if any, of these ceremonies require prior approval from the authorities?

How many monks were actually resident in those monasteries in 1987 and how many are actually resident now? If there is a difference between the two figures, could the State Department say how many of those who are no longer resident left of their own free will and, if any have died, how many died from natural causes and from what causes did the others die?

How many times has the lha-gya ritual been performed in public in Lhasa since October 12th 1989? What happened to the people who performed it? Are there any restrictions on the public practice of this ritual?

How many times and in which years has the annual Monlam ceremony been held in public without restrictions in Lhasa since 1959? Are monks free to refuse to take in the Monlam ceremony and what happened to monks who said they did not wish to take part in the ceremony in 1988?

#### Political

What do Tibetans in Tibet want? How is this assessed? Do they have an unrestricted right to elect freely nominated representatives by secret ballot? Do they have the right to appoint the Dalai Lama as their representative? Assuming that they had this right, how many of them would vote for him as their representative in a secret

ballot? How many political parties are allowed, and do they have equal access to taking over or operating the administration?

Are Tibetans free to form their own political parties and express divergent political views? Have any Tibetans been detained or arrested as a result of forming any kind of non-violent political grouping?

Are there many opinions, or is there a consensus? Do Tibetans want a return to the old system as it was pre-1959? Do Tibetans intend to use violence in pursuit of their aims?

Are Tibetans subjected to any form of political education? If so for what periods of time and who by? Are they asked questions about their political views? What happens if they refuse to answer these questions or give an answer which does not conform with Government policy? Has anyone been detained or punished in any way as a result of an answer of view expressed in a political education session?

Is the Government run by Chinese or by Tibetans? Is Government business in Tibet conducted in Tibetan or in Chinese? What tests do Do Chinese officials working in Tibetan take to show they have learnt Tibetan?

What have the Chinese contributed to Tibet since 1950? What have the Chinese gained from Tibet since 1950?

Is Tibet democratic and is it autonomous?

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